TALES FROM THE TOMB

DECEMBER
1970
50¢

Featuring

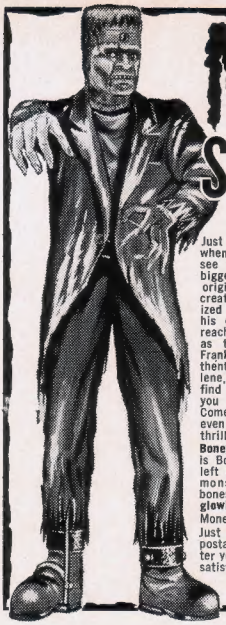
THE SHOCKING TERROR OF THE KILLER CREATURES

PLUS:

THE BLOODY HORROR OF FOOD FOR GHOULS

PLUS:

OTHER WEIRD TALES FROM THE TOMB!



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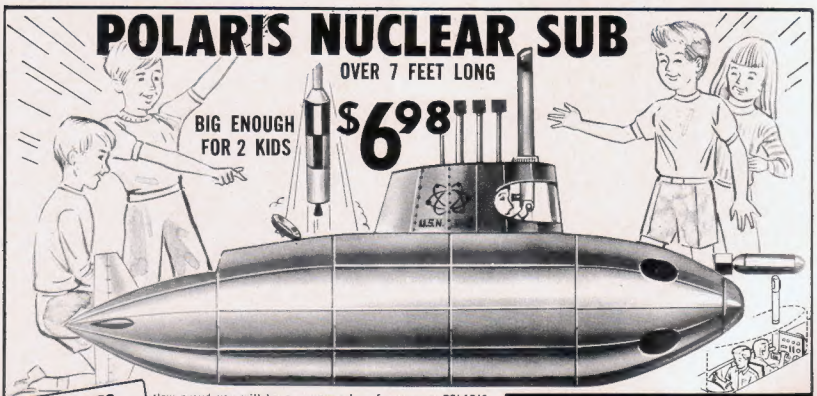

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THE KILLER CREATURES

WHAT WAS THE TERRIBLE FORCE THAT KEPT DRAWING THEM BACK INTO THE DARK RECESSES OF THE FORBIDDEN LAND? LANCE CARTER LEARNED THE TRUTH, BUT *DEATH* WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAR GREATER BOON, WHEN HE FACED THE — — KILLER CREATURES

AND THE MOMENT THEY DOCKED UPON THE FORBIDDING ISLAND, HIS HAUNTING CONVICTIONS WERE STRENGTHENED...

I DON'T LIKE IT, RHODA! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT'S FRAUGHT WITH **DANGER!**

NONSENSE, LANCE! YOU JUST IMAGINE IT!

AND, AS THE PARTY CAME ON SHORE ...

RHODA, I'M CERTAIN I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN! IT'S PART OF MY LOST PAST!

PERHAPS WHEN YOU WERE IN THE ARMY....

THEY HAD A SWIMMING PARTY AT A NEARBY LAGOON ....

YOU'RE NOT SWIMMING, LANCE ... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN ANOTHER OF YOUR BLUE MOODS...

I'LL ... I'LL BE IN, IN A MOMENT, RHODA!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE ***VOO DOO DRUMS*** BEGAN TO THROB, LANCE CARTER PACED HIS CABIN FLOOR LIKE A CAGED BEAST....

THEY'RE CALLING TO ME ... JUST AS **THEY** DID IN THE PAST! IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER!

BOOM BA BOOM BOOM BA BOOM BOOM

LOUDER AND LOUDER THE DRUMS CONTINUED THEIR INCESSANT BEATING, UNTIL HIS BRAIN BEGAN TO REEL BENEATH THEIR SPELL ....

CALLING TO ME! CALLING FROM OUT OF THE PAST! I MUST GO TO **THEM!** ***I CAN'T RESIST!***

BOOM BA BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

HE STEPPED FROM THE CABIN AND WALKED TOWARD THE JUNGLE AS ONE IN A TRANCE. AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FOREST, HE THOUGHT HE SAW A HORDE OF DEMONIACAL CREATURES BECKONING TO HIM ...

I MUST GO TO **THEM!** ***I MUST!***

RHODA OBSERVED HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE CABIN AND STARTED AFTER HIM ...

LANCE, COME BACK!

I'VE GOT TO GO TO THEM, RHODA! THEY ARE WAITING FOR ME... THERE AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE!
THERE'S NO ONE THERE, LANCE!
GOOD HEAVENS! HE MUST BE DELERIOUS!
THEY ARE THERE! I MUST GO TO THEM! I WON'T LET YOU STOP ME!
NO, LANCE! DON'T!
FRANK! MACK! HELP ME!
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY RUSHED FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE CABINS AND SUBDUED HIM!
HE'S GONE BESERK!
THE BLOW WAS A POWERFUL ONE... IT WAS NEARLY DAWN BEFORE HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS....
OH... MY HEAD... WHAT HIT ME?
IT WAS MACK... HE HAD TO DO IT!
THEN THE MEMORY OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT RETURNED TO HIM, AND HE TREMBLED WITH FEAR...
IT WAS TERRIBLE, RHODA! I-I COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF! I HAD TO GO TO THEM! PLEASE, DARLING... LET'S LEAVE THIS PLACE RIGHT AWAY!
WE CAN'T LEAVE YET... THE BOAT IS UNDERGOING REPAIRS!
THEN STAY WITH ME TONIGHT, RHODA! IF I SHOULD AGAIN GET THE URGE TO LEAVE... DON'T LET ME DO IT! PLEASE!
WHAT IS IT, LANCE? WHAT DO YOU FEAR?
I-I FEAR THEM! THE AWFUL CREATURES THAT INFEST THAT FOREST! PERHAPS YOU CAN'T SEE THEM, BUT THEY ARE OUT THERE... WAITING FOR ME!
THE GIRL DID NOT UNDERSTAND... SHE THOUGHT HE WAS LOSING HIS REASON. AS THE SHADES OF NIGHT ENVELOPED THE ISLAND, THE VOO DOO DRUMS ONCE MORE BEGAN TO THROB...
BOOM
BA BA BOOM
BOOM
6

LANCE KNEW THAT THE DRUMS WERE THE SIGNAL WHICH WERE ENTICING THE CREATURES OF DARKNESS TO COME FROM THEIR UNKNOWN LAIRS TO WAIT AT THE FOREST'S EDGE FOR HIM ...
AND, IN HIS CABIN, HE TRIED DESPERATELY TO QUELL THE MOUNTING COMPULSIONS WHICH AGAIN SWEPT OVER HIM ...
PLEASE, LANCE, DON'T GIVE IN TO IT! THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO FEAR! IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND!
THEY'RE OUT THERE! I KNOW THEY ARE! I CAN FEEL THEIR PRESENCE! THEY'RE CALLING TO ME AGAIN!
BOOM
BA BOOM BOOM BOOM
HELP ME, RHODA! IT'S GETTING ME! I CAN'T FIGHT IT! MY STRENGTH TO RESIST IS GONE! DON'T LET ME GO TO THEM ... PLEASE!
LANCE, YOU FRIGHTEN ME WHEN YOU TALK LIKE THIS! TRY TO RELAX, DARLING!
SUDDENLY HIS BODY BECAME RIGID. HE STEPPED TOWARD THE DOOR... RHODA TRIED TO RESTRAIN HIM, BUT HE FLUNG HER ASIDE LIKE A LIMP RAG!
LANCE! COME BACK! YOU CAN'T GET OUT! I LOCKED THE DOOR!
GOT TO GO TO THEM!
WITH A STRENGTH BORDERING UPON THE SUPER HUMAN, LANCE CARTER TORE THE HEAVY DOOR FROM ITS FASTENINGS....
AND WALKED OUT INTO THE NIGHT TOWARD THE DEATH-LIKE CREATURES HOVERING IN THE DARKNESS, WAITING FOR HIM...
COME... COME... WE HAVE AWAITED THEE!
MEANWHILE, RHODA HURRIED TO THE OTHER CABINS AND AROUSED THE MEN FROM THEIR SLUMBER....
CARTER'S GONE OFF AGAIN? HE MUST BE BALMY!
NO TIME TO ARGUE! HELP ME BRING HIM BACK!

WITH PRODIGIOUS STRIDES, LANCE CARTER ADVANCED TOWARD THE CREATURES OF DARKNESS, AND AS HE ENTERED THE FOREST, THEY GAVE GROUND, AND FINALLY REGROUPED IN THE FORM OF A SEMI-CIRCLE IN A JUNGLE GLADE ...
LANCE STOOD AS A FROZEN IMAGE AS THE TERRIBLE THINGS FROM THE HALF-WORLD SURROUNDED HIM ...
YOU ARE HERE... AT LAST!
THE LONG PERIOD OF WAITING IS OVER!
THEN THE SUDDEN REALIZATION OF HIS PLIGHT SWEPT OVER HIM! IN AN INSTANT THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WAS BROKEN, AND HE SANK TO THE GROUND, TREMBLING WITH TERROR....
SPARE ME... PLEASE! DON'T KILL ME! I BEG YOU!
ARISE! WE CAN NOT HARM YOU!
YOUR ENEMIES ARE COMING! THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE! ARISE! PREPARE TO DO BATTLE!
ONCE AGAIN THE TERRIBLE SPELL POSSESSED HIM! UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS MOVEMENTS, HE ROSE TO HIS FEET AND DID AS THE DEMONIACAL CREATURES BADE HIM ....
TAKE THIS SAPLING, QUICKLY! THE OTHER MEN WHO CAME WITH YOU ARE APPROACHING! KILL THEM!
WE CONCEALED HIMSELF BEHIND A CLUMP OF FOLIAGE AS RHODA AND HER COMPANIONS MADE THEIR WAY THRU THE FOREST....
WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM IN THIS DARKNESS!
WE'VE GOT TO TRY!
AS THEY ROUNDED A BEND IN THE TRAIL, LANCE SPRANG FROM THE UNDERGROWTH AND FELLED THE LEAD MAN WITH A POWERFUL BLOW!
LANCE!

THEN, USING THE POINTED STAFF AS A PIKE, HE IMPALED THE TWO REMAINING MEN IN A GHASTLY FASHION!
GAA AAAGH!
FOR A MOMENT, HE STOOD, IRRESOLUTE, GAZING AT THE LOVELY YOUNG GIRL...
LANCE! LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! YOU'VE KILLED THEM! NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME! DON'T...
SHE IS ONE OF THEM! KILL HER! KILL HER!
LANCE CARTER TRIED DESPERATELY TO THROW OFF THE SPELL, BUT TO NO AVAIL! EVEN THE WOMAN HE LOVED WAS SACRIFICED TO THE LUST TO KILL...
NO, LANCE! DON'T!
NOW DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU KILLED THEM? DO YOU KNOW WHY WE SUMMONED YOU HITHER?
I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER!
FOR YEARS I POSED AS ADMIRAL FATHERINGGEY OF THE BRITISH NAVY, GUARDIAN OF THIS PROVINCE! BUT IT WAS MERELY A GUISE TO CONCEAL MY REAL IDENTITY! YES, IT'S COMING BACK TO ME!
I REMEMBER NOW! I AM IMMORTAL! I HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE THE DAWN OF HISTORY! MY FORMER SELF IS RETURNING! I KNOW WHO I AM!
I AM ABDARKARAN, THE HAIRY KILLER BEAST! I AM YOUR LEADER! I HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR MANY MOONS, MY BROTHERS, BUT I HAVE RETURNED! I AM HOME AGAIN!
THE MOON SUDDENLY BURST FORTH IN ALL ITS BRILLIANCE AND SHONE DOWN UPON A SCENE AS OLD AS TIME ITSELF. THE GROUND TREMBLED TO THE STACCATO OF HAIRY FEET AS THE TERRIBLE ORGY OF SATANIC DANCING BEGAN! LANCE CARTER NO LONGER EXISTED BUT THE TERRIBLE THING THAT HAD ONCE BEEN HIM, DID NOT CARE! THIS WAS HIS HOUR OF TRIUMPH! THIS WAS HIS HOMECOMING!
the END

A GORY SICKENING SAGA OF FOOD FOR GHOULS

THE WAITERS, THE CASHERS, EVEN THE BOSSES OF THE CAFE GOURMET HATE FRANCOIS' GUTS!
ANOTHER RAISE! MAIS NON! NON! WE INCREASED YOUR SALARY ONLY LAST MONTH!
TOO BAD, MESSIEURS! THE CAFE EPICURE HAS OFFERED ME MORE MONEY!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT YOU WIN! WE'LL MEET THE EPICURE'S PRICE!
HA, HA! YOU ARE TOO TOO KIND, MESSIEURS!
FRANCOIS IS THE HIGHEST PAID CHEF IN ALL OF PARIS, HE DRESSES EXPENSIVELY...
BON SOIR, MY POOR PIGS! THAT IS ALL YOU ARE FIT FOR... WASHING DISHES...
AND HE DRIVES A HIGH-POWERED CUSTOM-BUILT SPORT CAR...
DA DE DUM, DA DE DUM!
UPON LEAVING THE RESTAURANT, FRANCOIS GUIDES THE CAR TO A LARGE APARTMENT BUILDING ALONG THE SWANK RUE DE LA PAIX...
DARLING!
BABETTE, MY SWEET!
A TOUCHING LITTLE SCENE, EH? THE FAITHFUL WIFE GREETING HER... BUT WAIT A MINUTE! WHO SAID SHE WAS HIS WIFE? NO, LUSCIOUS BABETTE IS NOT FRANCOIS WIFE INSTEAD, SHE IS HIS TOY... A GORGEOUS DOLL!
FRANCOIS, DARLING, I SAW THE SWEETEST FUR PIECE TODAY!
SAY NO MORE, ANGEL! IT'S YOURS! I'LL WRITE OUT A CHECK BEFORE I LEAVE!
YES, BABETTE IS AN EXPENSIVE TOY BUT FRANCOIS IS WILD ABOUT HER AND NO PRICE IS TOO HIGH!

WHEN FRANCOIS LEAVES BABETTE, DAWN IS JUST BREAKING... THIS TIME HE DRIVES TO A SLUM SECTOR OF TOWN... WHERE ANOTHER WOMAN AWAITS HIM...

WHAT'S THE **EXCUSE** TONIGHT? **WHERE** HAVE YOU BEEN?

DON'T START THAT **AGAIN,** MARIE! IT'S **LATE** AND I'M TIRED!

YES, AS YOU CAN SEE, FRANCOIS **DOES** HAVE A WIFE! MARIE AND FRANCOIS HAVE BEEN MARRIED TEN YEARS! THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN!

NOW QUIET CHILDREN! YOUR FATHER'S SLEEPING!

BUT, MAMA, HE **ALWAYS** SLEEPS! HE NEVER SLEEPS! HE **NEVER** TALKS OR PLAYS WITH US!

LATER...

BUT, FRANCOIS, YOU'VE **GOT** TO GIVE ME MORE MONEY! THE CHILDREN NEED WINTER COATS AND...

THEY'LL HAVE TO DO **WITHOUT** THEM! I HAVE **NO** MONEY TO GIVE YOU!

THE CHEF DESPISES MARIE AND THE CHILDREN! HE HOPES TO DRIVE HIS WIFE TO SEEK A DIVORCE AND THUS GAIN HIS FREEDOM!

YOU **BEAST!** HAVE YOU NO **HEART?** THEY'RE YOUR **CHILDREN!** YOUR OWN **FLESH** AND **BLOOD! MON DIEU,** DO YOU WISH THEM TO **STARVE!**

FRANKLY, MARIE, I DON'T **CARE** WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM!

FRANCOIS' WORDS DRIVE MARIE INTO A FRENZY AND SHE SLAPS HIM... BUT HER HUSBAND IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HER...

YOU FILTHY PIG! HOW DARE YOU SLAP ME!

SLAP

I (SOB) HATE YOU! **HATE YOU!**

THAT'S **FINE** WITH ME... BUT I **WARN** YOU, IF YOU EVER LAY A HAND ON ME AGAIN, YOU'LL GET THE **BEATING** OF YOUR LIFE!

NOT A VERY PRETTY PICTURE, IS IT? BUT NEVER FEAR, FRANCOIS WILL PAY FOR HIS SINS IN THE END!

OUI, FRANCOIS! ONE **STUFFED CALF'S HEART** FOR THE MAYOR!

THIS IS FOR MONSIEUR BELDERE! DON'T LET IT COOL, FOOL!

AND WITH BABETTE, HIS POPULARITY INCREASES AND HIS "GENEROSITY" INCREASES...
...AND IT'S ONLY 10,000 FRANCS, DARLING!
GO AHEAD, MY PET, GET IT TOMORROW AND HAVE THE STORE SEND ME THE BILL!
THE ONLY FLY IN FRANCOIS' OINTMENT CONTINUES TO BE MARIE...
FRANCOIS, MICHEL IS SICK! HE COMPLAINS OF PAINS IN HIS STOMACH AND...
DON'T BOTHER ME WITH THIS NONSENSE!
FRANCOIS IS TIRED THIS MORNING! LAST NIGHT HE TOOK BABETTE ON A SPREE, AND HIS HEAD ACHES FROM TOO MUCH CHAMPAGNE!
FRANCOIS, PLEASE, I BEG YOU! HE'S YOUR SON! HE NEED A DOCTOR! LET ME CALL...
LET GO OF ME, YOU HYSTERICAL WOMAN! I FORBID YOU TO WASTE MY MONEY ON DOCTORS! NOW SHUT UP!
I WARNED YOU TO KEEP YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF ME! I WARNED YOU, MARIE!
MAMA! MAMA!
BUT EVEN THE SOUND OF HIS SON'S ANGUISHED SCREAMS DO NOT STOP FRANCOIS! HE RAISES THE HEAVY CANE AGAIN AND AGAIN!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE! CLUMSY, STUPID WOMAN!
STOP IT! STOP IT!
OHHH-- OHHH--
BUT THE HORROR IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL FRANCOIS SLAPS MICHEL AND SENDS THE BOY HURTLING ACROSS THE ROOM!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO REALLY BE SICK ABOUT, YOU LITTLE MONSTER!
OHHHHH!
AND THUS, HIS DUTIES AS A HUSBAND AND FATHER ATTENDED TO, THE CHEF STROLLS BLITHELY TO THE RESTAURANT...
DE DUM DUM!

BUT BACK AT THE SLUM APARTMENT THERE IS NO HAPPINESS OR JOY IN THE HEART OF MARIE...

MAMA, MAMA, HE-HE (SOB) HIT ME! AND M-MY STOMACH... ... MY STOMACH...

SSSSH, SWEETHEART! MAMA WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

A DOCTOR IS SUMMONED AND THE PROSTRATE MOTHER LISTENS AS HER WORST FEARS ARE CONFIRMED...

IT'S APPENDICITIS, MADAME NICOLE! HE MUST BE OPERATED ON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

O-OPERATION? B-BUT WE HAVE NO MONEY! OH, DEAR LORD, HELP ME... HELP ME!

BUT THERE IS TO BE NO HELP FOR MARIE! BY THE TIME MICHEL CAN BE ADMITTED TO A CHARITY WARD, IT IS TOO LATE...

I'M SORRY, MADAME! HAD WE BEEN ABLE TO OPERATE SOONER WE MIGHT HAVE SAVED HIM!

OPERATING ROOM

M-MICHEL, MY SON, (SOB) MY SON!

MARIE LEAVES THE HOSPITAL AND WALKS SLOWLY BACK TO THE APARTMENT HER TEARS ARE NOW DRIED AND IN PLACE OF SORROW A BURNING, SEARING HATRED CONSUMES HER...

HE KILLED HIM... FRANCOIS KILLED HIM!

SHE WALKS TO THE KITCHEN, TO A WALL WHERE ALL THE KNIVES HANG SPARKLING AND GLITTERING ... AND IN HER HYSTERIA, THE MOTHER SEES A FIGURE BEFORE HER...

DADDY MURDERED ME, MAMA! HE MURDERED ME!

YES, DARLING, I KNOW HE DID! AND NOW HE'LL DIE... DIE LIKE A DOG!

THE RAZOR SHARP CLEAVER IS PLACED IN A PAPER BAG AND MARIE WALKS SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY TO THE ALLEY BEHIND THE GOURMET...

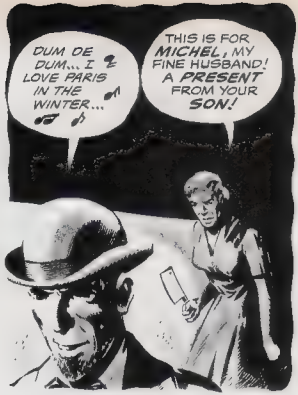
HE'S A MURDERER! A COLD-BLOODED MURDERER!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE GOURMET...

HURRY UP, IDIOTS! BRING ME THE STUFFING, THE CALVE'S HEARTS ARE READY FOR THE OVEN!

THE HOURS PASS QUICKLY AND AT MIDNIGHT FRANCOIS DONS HIS ELEGANT CAPE, PICKS UP HIS CANE, AND BIDS HIS ASSISTANTS GOOD NIGHT...

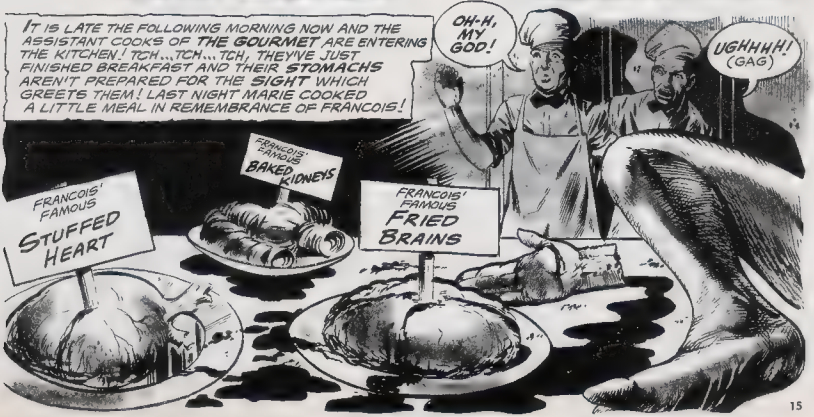
THE CHEF'S EYES ARE UNACCOSTUMED TO THE INKY DARKNESS OF THE ALLEY AND HE DOES NOT SEE THE FIGURE LOOMING UP BEHIND HIM...



THE CLEAVER HITS ITS MARK WITH DEADLY ACCURACY! FRANCOIS DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO SCREAM AS THE BLADE SPLITS HIS BRAIN IN HALF...

AND IN THE QUIET OF THE ALLEY THE BLOODY INSTRUMENT OF REVENGE RISES AND FALLS... RISES AND FALLS...

IT IS LATE THE FOLLOWING MORNING NOW AND THE ASSISTANT COOKS OF THE GOURMET ARE ENTERING THE KITCHEN! TCH...TCH...TCH, THEY'VE JUST FINISHED BREAKFAST AND THEIR STOMACHS AREN'T PREPARED FOR THE SIGHT WHICH GREETS THEM! LAST NIGHT MARIE COOKED A LITTLE MEAL IN REMEMBRANCE OF FRANCOIS!



FROM OUT OF TIME WAFTED THE SICKLY ODOR OF DEATH, BORNE OUT OF THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT! FOR TWO-THOUSAND YEARS IT BIDED ITS TIME, WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO STRIKE AND DEVOUR! FOR MODERN MAN THIS HORROR FROM ANCIENT DAYS WAS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING, FOR IT WAS THE **VAMPIRE LOTUS**...

The BLOOD BLOSSOM

IT STARTED IN A PEAT BOG IN NORTHERN JAPAN WHERE A PARTY OF AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS WERE EXPLORING...

TWO WEEKS LATER AS PROFESSOR MILES SANDFORD IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE STATES...
YOU ARE PROFESSOR SANDFORD, SIR? PLEASE— IMPORTANT THAT I SPEAK WITH YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO HURRY, I'M AFRAID! I'M JUST LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT!
YOU ARE THE GENTLEMAN WHO FOUND ANCIENT LOTUS SEED? YOU INTEND, PERHAPS, TO EXPERIMENT WITH SAME? YES, OF COURSE! THEN I MUST WARN YOU OF POSSIBLE DANGER, SIR...
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING? WHAT'S DANGEROUS ABOUT A LOTUS SEED TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD?
PLEASE, IF YOU WOULD LISTEN! I AM ALSO PROFESSOR— ICHIRO IKAIA OF THE UNIVERSITY HERE! I AM EXPERT IN LOTUS! I TELL YOU, MAY BE DANGEROUS!
PLEASE TO REMEMBER THIS IS NEOLITHIC LOTUS! PRIMITIVE! WE HAVE THEORY THAT SAME WERE FLESH EATING! IF YOU EXPERIMENT, PLEASE TO BE BE CAREFUL!
HAH-HAH— I'VE HEARD EVERYTHING NOW! A MAN-KILLING LOTUS!
SOME YARN THAT IKAIA TOLD ME! WONDER WHAT HIS —(CHUCKLE)— GAME WAS? MUST HAVE WANTED THE LOTUS SEED FOR HIS OWN EXPERIMENTS..THOUGHT HE COULD SCARE ME!
SOME DAYS LATER IN BOSTON...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO STOP FUSSING WITH THAT SILLY SEED, MILES, AND PAY SOME ATTENTION TO ME?
PLEASE, CLARA! YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT NAG SINCE I GOT HOME! THIS SEED IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME! IF I CAN MAKE IT GROW — AFTER TWO-THOUSAND YEARS!

A FEW DAYS PASS AND THERE IS ANOTHER BITTER QUARREL...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU, CLARA! I'LL LIVE AT THE CLUB UNTIL YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES!
FINE! DON'T YOU EVER COME BACK! ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IS YOUR WORK! GOOD RIDDANCE!

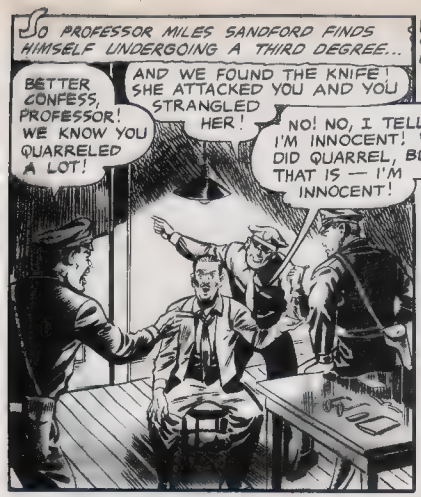
MINUTES LATER...
I'LL SHOW HIM! IGNORE ME FOR A PLANT, WILL HE! SINCE THAT LOTUS SEED SPROUTED HE HASN'T KNOWN I'M ALIVE!

IT—IT IS BIG! SORT OF FRIGHTENING, THE WAY IT GREW SO FAST!

CLARA SANDFORD SCREAMS IN SUDDEN TERROR...
EEEEEEEE— IT GRABBED ME!

AHHHH— IT'S ALIVE SAVE ME— HELP— AAAAAAAAAA—

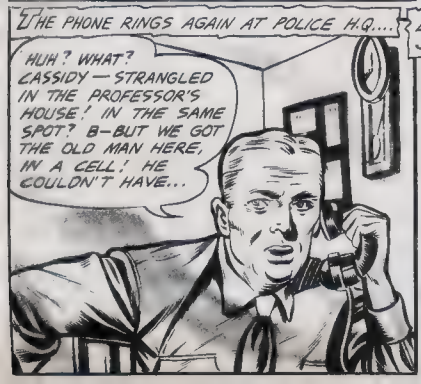
POLICE? COME QUICK! THERE'S BEEN A MURDER HERE! POOR MRS. SANDFORD LYING STRANGLED— AND ONLY THIS MORNING SHE AND THE MISTER QUARRELED!
BE RIGHT THERE! DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!

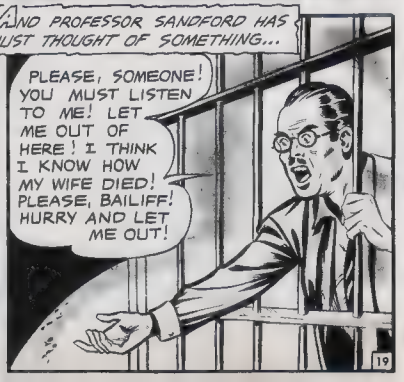

SO PROFESSOR MILES SANDFORD FINDS HIMSELF UNDERGOING A THIRD DEGREE...
BETTER CONFESS, PROFESSOR! WE KNOW YOU QUARRELED A LOT!
AND WE FOUND THE KNIFE! SHE ATTACKED YOU AND YOU STRANGLED HER!
NO! NO, I TELL YOU! I'M INNOCENT! WE DID QUARREL, BUT THAT IS — I'M INNOCENT!

AT THAT MOMENT IN THE HOUSE OF THE PROFESSOR...
DON'T SEE WHY I HAVE TO STAY ON GUARD! THEY GOT THE OLD GUY OKAY, OPEN AND SHUT! SAY — SOME FLOWER!

HMMM — A LOTUS! HEY — TWO-THOUSAND YEARS OLD! WHO DID THE PROFESSOR THINK HE WAS KIDDING?

HUH! G-GOT ME! THIS THING'S ALIVE — UHHHH—


THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN AT POLICE H.Q....
HUH? WHAT? CASSIDY — STRANGLED IN THE PROFESSOR'S HOUSE! IN THE SAME SPOT? B-BUT WE GOT THE OLD MAN HERE, IN A CELL! HE COULDN'T HAVE...


AND PROFESSOR SANDFORD HAS JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHING...
PLEASE, SOMEONE! YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME! LET ME OUT OF HERE! I THINK I KNOW HOW MY WIFE DIED! PLEASE, BAILIFF! HURRY AND LET ME OUT!

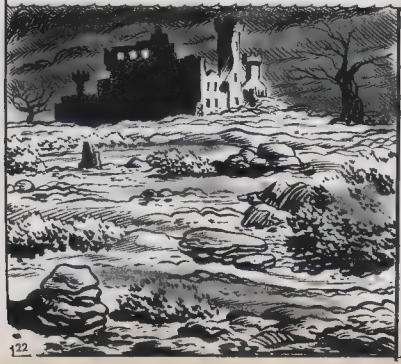
MINUTES LATER...
THAT'S THE CRAZIEST STORY I EVER HEARD, SANDFORD! A LOTUS PLANT THAT KILLS PEOPLE! YOU'RE NUTS!
I—I THOUGHT IT WAS CRAZY ONCE! WHEN I WAS WARNED BY ICHIRO IKAIA! NOW I THINK HE— WAS RIGHT!
BANK
POLICE
THE LOTUS IS IN THE LAB-GREENHOUSE! IF I'M RIGHT, WE MUST BE CAREFUL!
FIRST TIME I EVER HAD TO ARREST A FLOWER!
I STILL THINK HE'S NUTS! CASSIDY PROBABLY CHOKED HIMSELF!
IT'S GONE! BUT HOW COULD IT BE—UNLESS IT CAN MOVE AROUND UNDER ITS OWN POWER!
A PLANT CAN'T WALK, SO CUT THE KIDDING!
YEAH, WHAT SORT OF GAME IS THIS?
FROM UPSTAIRS COMES A HORRIBLE DEATH SCREECH...
EEEEEEEE— THAT THING!
AHHHHH-
GREAT SCOTT, IT GOT KATE! MUST BE CLOSE AROUND SOME-WHERE!
I'M—(GULP)—STARTING TO BELIEVE IN THIS THING!
LET'S GET IT!
KEEP BACK! IT'S IN THAT ROOM! FOR ALL I KNOW IT MAY BE ABLE TO HEAR, OR EVEN TO THINK!
WE NEED AXES!
THAT'S THE ANSWER! WE'LL CUT IT UP!

SECONDS LATER...
READY? REMEMBER THIS THING IS A KILLER OUT OF THE ANCIENT PAST!
GO AHEAD! OPEN THE DOOR!
WE'RE READY!
AGGGGG-GGGGGGG-
KILL IT—HACK IT TO PIECES! QUICK!
MOTHER OF MINE — WHAT A MONSTER IT IS!
YEEEEEEEEEE—
LISTEN—IT KNOWS IT'S DYING!
TWENTY YEARS A COP AND NEVER — (GASP)— ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
HURRY, FINISH IT OFF!
WHEN FINALLY THE TERRIBLE SCENE IS OVER...
WELL, GOODBYE, PROFESSOR! BETTER LET US BURN THAT BIT OF THE PLANT WITH THE REST!
AH, IT'S HARMLESS!
I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS—AS A SOUVENIR OF THE GREATEST DISCOVERY EVER MADE BY A BIOLOGIST! GOOD NIGHT!
POY
AND IT IS TIME FOR BED...
ALMOST TOO BAD WE HAD TO DESTROY YOU, -LOTUS! THE ONLY ONE LIKE YOU LEFT IN THE WORLD! A REAL KILLER FLOWER —AND AT LEAST— (CHUCKLE)— YOU GOT RID OF MY WIFE!
SO THE PROFESSOR SLEPT AT LAST AND DREAMED — THAT SOMETHING WAS STRANGLING HIM...
The End

The Ghostly Guillotine

FOR CENTURIES THE EVIL SPIRIT OF REVENGE HAD DWELT IN THE RUINED CASTLE ON THE LONELY MOORS! THEN A YOUNG MAN CAME SEEKING HIS FORTUNE, BUT FOUND INSTEAD A HORRIBLE DEATH! OVER THE FLUTTER OF BAT WINGS AND THE STEALTHY SLITHER OF VERMIN CAME THE DREAD AND SPECTRAL VOICE OF **THE HAUNTED HEAD...**

ON THE LONELY ENGLISH MOORS STANDS MOORSBY CASTLE, STILL HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF EVIL DEEDS DONE LONG AGO...



AND YOUNG GEOFFREY MOORSBY HAS COME ALL THE WAY FROM NEW ZEALAND TO CLAIM HIS INHERITANCE...

SO THAT'S MOORSBY CASTLE! FATHER OFTEN SPOKE OF IT—AND THE CURSE!

THERE'S WHERE OUR ANCESTOR BEHEADED HIS OWN CHIEF EXECUTIONER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO! A GRUESOME STORY!

THORNTON MOORSBY EXPLAINS THE CURSE TO HIS NEPHEW AS THEY RETURN TO THE MODERN MOORSBY MANOR...
THE KING WAS ANGRY WITH SOME EXECUTIONS OUR ANCESTOR HAD ORDERED! TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN THE OLD MAN BLAMED GILES, HIS EXECUTIONER, AND HAD HIM BEHEADED!
AND GILES CURSED THE ENTIRE MOORSBY FAMILY AND SWORE TO GET REVENGE!
YES — SINCE THAT TIME NO MOORSBY HAS EVER DARED STAY OVER-NIGHT IN THE CASTLE! ONLY AN OLD LEGEND, OF COURSE!
HMMM — I WONDER! AFTER ALL, I AM A MOORSBY, AND THIS SOUNDS LIKE IT MIGHT BE FUN!
THAT NIGHT AT DINNER...
I THINK I'LL TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE, UNCLE! I'LL SPEND A NIGHT IN THE CASTLE!
NO, MY BOY! PLEASE DON'T! I KNOW IT'S ONLY A STORY, BUT IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU...
WHAT CAN HAPPEN, UNCLE? IT'S ONLY AN OLD WIVES' TALE, AS YOU ADMIT! AND IT WILL BE SOMETHING TO TELL WHEN I GET BACK TO NEW ZEALAND!
SO SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
I WISH YOU WOULDNT DO THIS GEOFFREY, BUT SINCE YOU INSIST, I'M GLAD I PUT IN THE PHONE!
A MODERN TOUCH, UNCLE! DON'T WORRY — IF I SEE THIS GHOST I'LL CALL RIGHT ENOUGH! BUT I'M NOT EXPECT-ING ANYTHING TO HAPPEN! THE WORST IS THAT I MIGHT CATCH A COLD!
SOON GEOFFREY MOORSBY IS LEFT ALONE TO FACE THE NIGHT...
HMMM — IT IS DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE ALONE! SPOOKY! BUT WHAT CAN HAPPEN? ALL I NEED TO DO IS CALL THE HOUSE IF I NEED ANY HELP!

BUT INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO THE MANOR, THORNTON MOORSBY DOES A STRANGE THING...
THE BOY HAS PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! NOBODY CAN BLAME ME IF THE GHOST WALKS TONIGHT— AND KILLS!
AND IF HE'S DEAD GEOFFREY CAN HARDLY MAKE A FUSS ABOUT HIS INHERITANCE— THE MONEY I'VE SPENT OVER ALL THESE YEARS!
I'VE MADE A LOT OF BAD INVESTMENTS WITH HIS MONEY! BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD ONE! THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE KNOWS HE'S HERE TO DEFY THE GHOST!
T-THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING!
YOU WON'T BE HEARING THINGS MUCH LONGER, GEOFFREY!
Y-YOU! NO! GAAAAA—
IT'S OVER! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIS BODY IN THE MORNING AND GO INTO PROPER MOURNING! POOR, POOR GEOFFREY! BUT I WARNED HIM...

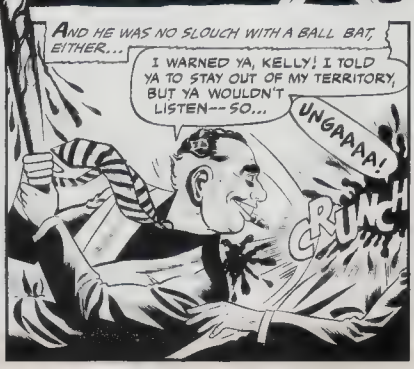
LATER AS THORNTON MOORSBY QUIETS HIS NERVES WITH A DRINK...
I'M GLAD IT'S OVER! NOW TO MAKE SURE I HAVEN'T— HUH — THE PHONE!
RRR-RINNG
R-RR-INGG
HE FEELS COLD SWEAT BREAK OUT ON HIS BODY AS HE STARES AT THE RINGING PHONE...
B—BUT THIS PHONE IS CONNECTED ONLY WITH THE CASTLE! H—HOW? WHO COULD BE CALLING FROM THERE?
RRR-RINNGGG
R-RRINGGG
ALMOST NUMB WITH TERROR, HE PICKS UP THE PHONE...
H-HELLO— WHO—WHO IS IT?
UNCLE! H—HELP ME! HURT— C-COME AT ONCE! H—HURRY!
GEOFFREY'S VOICE! HE'S NOT DEAD!
MINUTES LATER...
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SUCH A FOOL? I WAS SURE HE WAS DEAD! NOW I'LL HAVE TO FINISH THE JOB QUICKLY!
BUT...
THERE HE IS, JUST AS I LEFT HIM! I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS!

HE IS DEAD! BUT THEN— WHO CALLED ME ON THE PHONE?
FROM BEHIND HIM THE MAN HEARS A CURIOUS CHUCKLE AND...
HAH—HAH, SO YOU'RE A MOORSBY TOO! I THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME BACK!
AHHHHHH— THE P-PHANTOM!
N-NO HEAD! Y-YOU'RE GILES! THE GHOST OF GILES, THE EXECUTIONER!
YES! MY HEAD IS WAITING FOR YOU! IN THE DUNGEONS! COME!
YOUR HEAD! NO! LET ME OUT OF HERE! AAAAAA—
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
PANIC-STRICKEN, HIS SOUL FILLED WITH TERROR, THORNTON MOORSBY FLEES BLINDLY DOWN AND DOWN, UNTIL...
HUH! M-MUST BE IN THE OLD TORTURE CHAMBER! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT THING COMES!
AND THEN...
GREETINGS, MOORSBY, FROM GILES, THE EXECUTIONER! YOU SEE THAT MY HEAD HAS NOT DIED! LUST FOR REVENGE HAS KEPT IT ALIVE!
GAAAAAAAE- THE—HEAD!

HERE IS MY BODY NOW! IT WILL CARRY OUT MY ORDERS!
NO! DON'T— HELP!
KILL HIM! SLAY HIM! CUT OFF HIS HEAD AS THEY CUT OFF MINE SO MANY YEARS AGO! NOW!
SCREAM, COWARD! NO ONE WILL HEAR— OR CARE! KILL— KILL— INSTANTLY!
YOU ARE A MURDERER, LIKE ALL THE MOORSBYS! YOU DIE! YOUR NEPHEW WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE WITH MINE! KILL HIM!
SPARE ME! DON'T— I'LL DO ANYTHING! NO—NO!
EEEEEEE—
AHHHHH—
GOOD! IT IS OVER! NOW I CAN REST AT LAST! I HAVE MY REVENGE!
The End

MEET ME in the TOMB

NAILS MALONE WAS A WISE GUY--AND A TOUGH ONE! HE COULD MURDER A RIVAL EVERY MORNING BEFORE BREAKFAST AND FEEL NO REMORSE! SO HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE TOP OF GANGLAND, MAKING MILLIONS ON THE WAY UP! AND WHEN HIS TIME CAME HE STILL WASN'T AFRAID, BECAUSE HE'D FIGURED A WAY TO BEAT THE RACKET! BUT FATE FOOLED HIM AND, IN THE DARK SHADOW OF THE GRAVE HE FOUND THAT YOU CAN'T **DOUBLECROSS THE DEVIL...**



AND WHEN IT CAME TO WAYLAYING A RIVAL AND SETTING THE CAR ON FIRE WITH FLAMING GASOLINE, NAILS WAS ONE OF THE BEST...

HO-HO! I TOLD YA NOT TO PUT THOSE SLOT MACHINES ON THE NORTH SIDE, LOUIE! THAT'S **MY** COUNTRY!

SCREEEEECH

BUT NAILS' REAL SPECIALITY, HIS PRIDE AND JOY, WAS...

THINK WE GOT ENOUGH CONCRETE IN THE BARREL YET, BOSS?

NO--NO! PLEASE, NAILS! **OWWW!**

NAW! KEEP POURING, BIGGIE!

YES! A DARK NIGHT, A DESERTED BRIDGE, AND A SCREAMING MAN IN A BARREL OF CONCRETE! THESE LITTLE THINGS NAILS ENJOYED...

S'LONG, CHUCK! BE SEEING YA--HAH-HAH-HAH!

GEE, NAILS! SOMETIMES YOU EVEN (SHUDDER) GIVE ME THE CREEPS!

YAPPPA!

UNTIL AT LAST NAILS WAS KING OF THE RACKETS! HE HAD IT ALL--POWER, MONEY, AND ONE OF THE BEST LOOKING MOLLS THAT EVER WORE A STOLEN MINK...

WELL, KID, HERE'S TO US! I'M ON TOP NOW AND I'M GONNA STAY THERE! NOBODY CAN STOP OLD NAILS NOW!

SURE, HONEY!

JUST YOU AND ME, BABY, FROM NOW ON! JUST NAILS AND MARSHA, HUH?

SURE, LOVER, SURE! YOU WON'T FORGET THAT ROLLS ROYCE YOU PROMISED ME?

OF COURSE NAILS HAD A FEW OLD CHUMS, TOO! REAL NICE TYPES, AND THEY STUCK TO HIM LIKE GLUE...

BIGGIE

IRON JAW

GREASY JOE

FATS

TWO NOSE

SO NAILS CAREFULLY STAGES A DINNER FOR HIS OLD PALS--AND A FEW ENEMIES! IT HAS TO LOOK GOOD! AND ONLY NAILS KNOWS THAT THE TOMMYGUN IS LOADED WITH BLANKS...
HERE'S TO YA, NAILS!
THANKS, GANG! I GIVE YA THIS DINNER AS A REWARD FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE! BUT WHERE'S MARSHA?
DON'T WORRY, NAILS! SHE'LL BE HERE! HEY, THIS IS GOOD CHAMPAGNE!
SUDDENLY...
HI, FELLAS! HI, NAILS! I BROUGHT A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YA!
HEY! WHAT YA GOING TO DO WITH THAT (SPUTTER) TYPEWRITER?
JUST THIS! YOU'RE A RAT, NAILS, AND YOU'VE TWO-TIMED ME WITH THAT OTHER DOLL FOR THE LAST TIME! NOW YOU GET YOURS, YOU CHEAP TWO BIT CHEATER!
RAT AT TAT TAT TAT!
SO FAR--ACCORDING TO PLAN! BUT WITH ONE BIG DIFFERENCE...
THE BULLETS! REAL! D-DYING! GAAAA!
YES, NAILS! MARSHA PLAYED WITH REAL BULLETS...
POOR NAILS! HE WAS A SWEET GUY!
SURE GLAD W-WE COULD GIVE HIM SUCH A SWELL FUNERAL!
YEAH! THE FLOWERS ALONE COST 20,000 BUCKS! BOO-HOO!
SO NAILS HAD A FUNERAL TO END ALL FUNERALS! AS HE WAS CARRIED TO HIS GRAVE THE PALLBEARERS WEPT UNCONTROLLABLY...
OH, BOO-HOO! MARSHA SHOULDN'T OF WENT AND DONE IT!
NAW! NAILS WAS A TRUE FRIEND!
AND NOW WE GOT A DAME FOR A (SOB) BOSS!
YEAH! SHE KNOWS WHERE HE HID ALL HIS DOUGH!
POOR (SNIFFLE) NAILS! JUST SHOWS YA CAN NEVER TRUST A DAME! ONLY NOW WE GOTTA!

AND NOW, AS THOUGH A MESSAGE WERE BORNE ON THE SOUGHING NIGHT WIND, THE WORD OF NAILS' DEATH GOES TO THE UNDERGROUND--AND WE DO MEAN UNDERGROUND...
AHA--I CAN LEAVE MY GRAVE AT LAST!
SOMEWHERE ELSE ANOTHER CORPSE CLIMBS FROM A CHARRED AND RIDDLED CAR...
NAILS IS DEAD! HEH-HEH! NOW AT LAST I CAN HAVE MY REVENGE!
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER STILL ANOTHER CORPSE FLOATS TO THE SURFACE, AN OBSCENE THING, EATEN AWAY BY FISH AND CRABS...
HEE-HEE! SO THEY GOT OLD NAILS AT LAST! NOW (CHUCKLE) I'M GONNA SHOW HIM WHAT IT'S LIKE! HE'S A FOOL IF HE THINKS HE'S GOING TO FIND PEACE!
DRAWN TOGETHER BY A SINGLE HORRIBLE PURPOSE, THREE THINGS THAT ONCE WERE MEN MEET IN THE LONELY GRAVEYARD WHERE NAILS MALONE LIES SLEEPING PEACEFULLY--BUT NOT FOR LONG...
HERE'S THE GRAVE!
OPEN IT! OPEN IT!
WITH ROTTING FINGERS THEY CLAW AT THE GRAVE...
HAH-HAH--NAILS NEVER THOUGHT HE'D SEE US AGAIN!
I'LL BET! THOUGHT HE WAS RID OF US WHEN HE KNOCKED US OFF!
DIG--DIG!
THE CORPSE OF NAILS MALONE IS PULLED SCREAMING FROM HIS GRAVE...
YIIIIIIIII--N-NO! LET ME SLEEP IN PEACE!
NOT A CHANCE, NAILS! YA DIDN'T SUFFER ENOUGH WHEN YOU DIED! NOW WE'RE GONNA FIX YA!
BUT THE CORPSE OF NAILS PLEADS FOR A SPECIAL FAVOR...
PLEASE, FELLAS, PLEASE! BEFORE YA DO ANYTHING TO ME--LEMME TAKE CARE OF THAT LITTLE RAT, MARSHA! SHE DOUBLECROSSED ME! JUST LET ME GET HER, THEN I'LL COME BACK AND YA CAN DO ANYTHING YA WANT TO ME!
31

NAILS WAITS ANXIOUSLY AS THE THREE CORPSES CONFER...

WHY NOT? LET HIM GO FOR NOW!

YEAH! MARSHA DID CROSS HIM! BY THE CODE SHE'S GOTTA DIE, TOO!

HEH-HEH! FUNNY, HUH! EVEN WHEN HE'S DEAD OLD NAILS HAS GOTTA BUMP SOMEBODY OFF!

SO NAILS GETS HIS REPRIEVE--FOR THE MOMENT...

OKAY, NAILS! GO KNOCK OFF THE DAME!

BUT HURRY BACK! DON'T TRY ANYTHING!

YEAH! YOU STILL GOT YOURS COMING!

THANKS, FELLAS! SEE YA!

AN HOUR LATER NAILS STEPS SOFTLY INTO MARSHA'S APARTMENT...

HMM--JUST AS PRETTY AS EVER! AND JUST AS CROOKED, I BET!

HO-HUM--NOW FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP! A LOT TO DO TOMORROW...

MARSHA TURNS AND SEES THE LEERING, HALF DECAYED FORM OF NAILS...

EEEEEEEEEE--NAILS!

HEE-HEE--THAT'S RIGHT, BABY! OLD NAILS, COME BACK FROM HIS GRAVE TO GET YOU!

NO--NAILS, DON'T! EEEEK! W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO D-DO?

YOU'LL SEE, SWEETHEART! I WANT YOU TO GET IT THE HARD WAY--THE SLOW WAY! AND THIS FOLDING BED OF YOURS IS JUST THE THING!

SO THE LOVELY MARSHA, SCREAMING FOR THE LIFE THAT IS ALMOST OVER, GOES INTO THE FOLDING BED...

HAH-HAH! SEE YA, BABY! MEET ME IN MY TOMB! MAYBE WE CAN (CHUCKLE) START ALL OVER AGAIN!

AHHHHHHH--UUUUUHHH...

AS OUTSIDE THE THREE VINDICTIVE CORPSES OF THE MURDERED GANGSTERS WAIT, ENJOYING THE MUFFLED SCREAMS OF THE DYING WOMAN...
HAH--SHE'S REALLY GETTING HERS!
YEAH! BUT WHERE'S NAILS?
HE OUGHTA BE COMING BACK PRETTY SOON!
BUT NAILS HAS ANOTHER IDEA! HE LEAVES BY ANOTHER DOOR AND ELUDES THE WAITING CORPSES...
HEH-HEH! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME AGAIN! GOOD THING I HAPPENED TO REMEMBER THAT OLD TOMB THAT HARRY THE MULE BUILT FOR HIMSELF A LONG TIME AGO...
YEAH, HERE IT IS! OLD HARRY NEVER GOT TO USE IT! TOO BAD!
THEY NEVER DID FIND HIS BODY, COME TO THINK OF IT! BUT THERE AIN'T NO USE IN LETTING A GOOD TOMB GO TO WASTE!
BUT THEY ARE WAITING...
HELLO, NAILS! TRIED TO LOSE US, HUH?
HERE I AM, NAILS! YOU SAID TO MEET YOU IN YOUR TOMB!
Y-YOU! B-BUT HOW--
YAAAAA!
NAILS GOES DOWN SCREAMING AS THEY TEAR HIM TO BITS...
HAH-HAH--WE'RE GONNA RIP YA LIMB FROM LIMB!
AND SCATTER THEM! YOU'LL NEVER FIND THE PIECES, NAILS--OR ANY PEACE!
AIEEEE!
SO THE BATS FLUTTER AND THE DANK MISTS CREEPS OVER THE GRAVES, WHILE OVERHEAD A PALE MOON SCOWLS AT THE SINISTER LITTLE TABLEAU BELOW! AND FROM THE TOMB COMES THE SOUND OF SCREAMING AND HORRIBLE, CHUCKLING LAUGHTER...
AAHHHH!
HA-HAH-HEE! HEE-HEE-- HO-HO-HO!
THE End

The ANTILLA TERROR

OF ALL THE FANTASTIC TERRORS FACED BY KOLAH, THE MENACE OF THE WEIRD CREATURES, HALF APE AND HALF WOMAN, WAS THE MOST HORRIBLE! LIKE SOME TERRIBLE SCOURGE THEY SWEPT INTO THE PEACEFUL KRAALS, KILLING AND PLUNDERING, AND FORCING THE MOST STALWART MEN INTO SLAVERY! IT TOOK ALL OF KOLAH'S FAR FAMED COURAGE TO DEFEAT THE DREAD *APE WOMEN OF ANTILLA*---

A MAN, HALF DEAD, STUMBLES TOWARD KOLAH'S KRAAL...

AIEEE—MY PAIN IS GREAT! NOT MUCH LONGER CAN I GO ON—STILL MUST I FIND KOLAH AND WARN HER OF THIS FEARFUL THING WHICH STRIKES OUR PEOPLE!

AS NOT FAR AWAY IN THE TREES...

HMM—LOOK AT OLD BLACKY! SCENTS SOMEONE OFF THERE IN THE JUNGLE SOMEWHERE! AND THAT USUALLY MEANS DANGER! BETTER BE ON MY GUARD!

EASY, SABER! DON'T HURT, SABER! DON'T HURT HIM!

WAA—A BLACK KILLER CAT! NOW WILL I DIE WITHOUT GIVING KOLAH THE WARNING! I CANNOT-GASP-RUN LONGER!

DON'T WORRY, PAL! SABER ISN'T GOING TO HURT YOU. HE'S JUST CHECKING UP ON THINGS. BUT YOU'RE HURT, LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. WHAT'S WRONG?
AIEEE—IT IS KOLAH AT LAST!
I ESCAPED WITH MUCH DIFFICULTY AND TREKKED FAR TO ASK FOR HELP! THERE CAME A TRIBE OF FIERCE ONES TO OUR KRAAL—HALF WOMEN AND HALF APES—THEY CARRIED OFF ALL MEN BUT ME!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, FRIEND, I'D BETTER GET TO WORK RIGHT AWAY. LOTS TO DO. BUT FIRST I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO MY VILLAGE AND HAVE MY PEOPLE TAKE CARE OF YOU!
I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS SHORT AND NOT SO SWEET, OLD SCALY! AND HERE COMES SABER TO HELP ME! NOW YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU BUTTED IN!
BUT SUDDENLY...
GOLLY! WHAT A TIME TO HAVE TO TANGLE WITH A PYTHON! JUST WHEN I'M TRYING TO GET THIS POOR FELLOW HOME! WELL—JUST HAVE TO FIGHT IT OUT!
AIEEE—IT IS A HUGE COILY KILLER!
BUT THE MATE OF THE PYTHON ENTERS THE FIGHT!
OHH—GUESS SABER CAN'T HELP ME MUCH AFTER ALL! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO BE TIED UP FOR A TIME!
THAT ONE IS GIVING SABER A BAD TIME! GOT TO HURRY AND GET RID OF MY SNAKE SO I CAN HELP HIM!
WHY DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO HAPPEN AT ONCE!
HERE I COME, BLACK FELLOW! FINISHED MINE AND NOW I'LL HELP YOU WITH YOURS—THEN MAYBE WE CAN GET STARTED AGAIN!

FIERCE EYES WATCH THE FIGHT---

HO! THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO ATTACK THE VILLAGE OF THAT FOOL WHO IS CALLED KOLAH!

YES—WHILE SHE FIGHTS THE SNAKES WE WILL CARRY OFF ALL THE MEN IN HER KRAAL!

HOEEE—SELDOM DO WE HAVE SUCH GOOD FORTUNE! WHILE KOLAH IS GONE WE WILL STRIKE HARD!

MANY MEN SLAVES WILL BE OURS TODAY! AND THIS IS WELL—BECAUSE WE NEED THEM BADLY! OUR MEN DIE FAST!

THE APE-WOMEN ATTACK WITH UTTER FURY AND WITHOUT ANY WARNING...

AIEEE—A HORDE OF STRANGE KILLERS COME!

BUT THEY SEEK ONLY MEN CAPTIVES!

STRIKE HARD, MY WARRIORS! THIS WILL BE A GREAT VICTORY FOR US! THERE WILL BE MEN SLAVES FOR ALL!

WE OBEY, TAMKO!

UNLOOSE THIS ONE, FOOL! DID I NOT SEE HIM FIRST—HE IS LARGE AND HANDSOME AND HE IS MINE!

GAA—TWO FIERCE ONES CHOKE ME!

YOU LIE! IT WAS I WHO FIRST SEIZED HIM! I CLAIM HIM!

SO YOU WANT BATTLE, UGLY ONE! I, SOFI, WILL SHOW YOU THAT I DO NOT SURRENDER A SLAVE EASILY! TAKE MY BLOWS THEN!

YOU BRAG MUCH, OLD WITCH! BUT I WILL PROVE WHO IS STRONGER!

IDIOTS! FOOLS! DO YOU FIGHT OVER ONE MAN SLAVE WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY FOR THE TAKING! DO IT AGAIN AND I, TAMKO, WILL SLAY YOU BOTH!

GAA—I AM SORRY, MY LEADER!

THE BATTLE IS SOON OVER...

AIEEE—OUR FATE WILL BE TERRIBLE! IF KOLAH HAD NOT FAILED US!

MARCH, MEN SLAVES! YOU HAVE FAR TO GO!

NEVER DID WE THINK KOLAH WOULD LET THIS HAPPEN!

SOON YOU WILL BE WEARING COLLARS OF IRON!

WAAH—SHE IS VERY ANGRY!

NOT ONLY DO WE GET MANY MEN SLAVES, BUT ALSO I WILL SET A TRAP FOR KOLAH! SHE WILL BE ANGRY WHEN SHE FINDS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, AND SO WILL SHE FOLLOW US INTO THE JUNGLE. IN HER FURY PERHAPS SHE WILL NOT BE AS ALERT AS USUAL! THEN WE WILL POUNCE ON HER!

KOLAH RETURNS TO HER KRAAL TO FIND DESOLATION AND DESPAIR...

YOU COME TOO LATE, KOLAH. THE APE-WOMEN HAVE TAKEN ALL OUR MEN!

HMMM—LOOKS LIKE I SAVED THIS MAN AND LOST ALL THE REST! BUT I WON'T TAKE THIS LYING DOWN. GOT TO GET ON THE TRAIL OF THOSE RAIDERS RIGHT AWAY!

BE SEEING YOU PEOPLE, BUT NOT UNTIL I TAKE CARE OF THIS TAMKA CHARACTER—SHE'S GOING TO BE MIGHTY SORRY SHE RAIDED MY VILLAGE!

OHH—THIS POOR ONE NEEDS MUCH CARE! HIS WOUNDS SHALL BE WELL TENDED!

LOTS OF CROCS IN THIS STREAM, BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE IT. HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO GO ANY OTHER WAY!

I KNEW IT! THEY'RE ALL GREEDY FOR A MEAL! BUT LITTLE KOLAH IS GOING TO FOOL THEM BADLY THIS TIME! TO MUCH TO DO TO FURNISH CROC BAIT! *OHH*— JUST WAIT UNTIL I CATCH UP WITH THAT CREW!

MADE IT! I'M LUCKY! BUT SO ARE THEY. IF I HADN'T BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY THERE WOULD BE A FEW DEAD CROCS FLOATING DOWN-STREAM ABOUT NOW!

THANK GOODNESS I'M NOT HAVING ANY TROUBLE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL! IT'S AS PLAIN AS DAY!

SPOOR IS GETTING HOT! THEY CAN'T BE FAR AHEAD OF ME! BUT I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SLOW DOWN AND SCOUT OUT THE LAND A LITTLE! ONLY I'M SO BLAZING MAD!

IN HER ANSWER KOLAH DOES WHAT TAMKA HAS HOPED FOR—GROWS MOMENTARILY CARELESS...

OHH—FALLING! A PIT ON THE TRAIL THAT WAS NEVER HERE BEFORE! KNEW I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL! TOO LATE NOW...

HEEE! THE GREAT QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE FALLS INTO MY TRAP LIKE ANY STUPID JUNGLE BEAST! *HAH!* NOW I WILL PUT A QUICK END TO THE LIFE OF THIS ONE!

HO! NOW WE HAVE THE GREAT ONE HELPLESS AS A TRAPPED GAZELLE! HER FATE WILL BE HARSH!
TAMKA IS VERY CLEVER!
LISTEN TO THEM CROWING! THINK THEY'VE GOT ME THIS TIME FOR SURE!
WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO FALL FOR AN OLD GAG LIKE THIS ONE! A PIT! BUT I DID AND NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO GET OUT OF IT THE BEST WAY I CAN! AND I BETTER HURRY, TOO!
HASTEN, LAZY ONES! CUT LONG POLES AND SHARPEN THEM. WE WILL THRUST THEM INTO THE PIT AND SPEAR KOLAH LIKE A GOOSE OVER THE FIRE! WHAT SPORT IT WILL BE!
YOU ARE AS CUNNING AS THE JACKAL, TAMKA! WE WILL SLAY HER WHILE SHE CANNOT REACH US! WE WILL BE SAFE, BUT SHE DIES!
ONE OF THE APE-WOMEN, MORE SKILLED THAN THE OTHERS, USES A CRUDE STONE KNIFE...
WAH—I SHARPEN WELL THE POLES AND SOON KOLAH WILL FEEL THE RESULTS OF MY WORK! THIS IS THE LAST OF THE DEATH SPEARS!
HASTEN! SLOW ONE! WE WOULD GET ON WITH THE SLAYING OF KOLAH!
SUDDENLY...
HEY! ALMOST GOT ME! SO THAT'S IT! GOING TO KILL ME WITHOUT A CHANCE TO DEFEND MYSELF! GOING TO HAVE TO BE QUICK ON MY FEET TO GET OUT OF THIS!
SHE IS QUICK AS A JUNGLE BIRD!
FOOLS! STUPID ONES! YOU AGAIN LET HER ELUDE DEATH! TIME AND TIME AGAIN! CAN YOU NOT THRUST A TRAPPED WOMAN?
AIEEE—AGAIN SHE ESCAPES!
AT LAST! GOT HOLD OF ONE OF THE POLES! NOW IF I'M FAST ENOUGH AND MY LUCK HOLDS OUT I MIGHT GET OUT OF THIS—AND I MIGHT NOT! BUT I'LL MAKE THE TRY!
AIEEE—I TUMBLE DOWN INTO THE PIT WITH KOLAH! BUT NOT YET WILL I LET GO OF MY POLE! TAMKA WILL BE ANGRY IF SHE SEES ME SO EASILY DEFEATED!
GNAHHH!
SO YOU HAD TO COME ALONG WITH THE POLE, EH? NOW SEE HOW SORRY YOU'RE GOING TO BE! THIS HAS GOT TO BE A HARD ONE BECAUSE I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME!

NOW I'VE GOT JUST ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN SKIN UP THIS POLE AND OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY GET ME! GOOD THING FOR ME THEY'RE SUCH ROTTEN SHOTS! HERE GOES!

BROTHER! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE! MY LUCK CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER. IT'S GOT TO CHANGE SOON—AND THAT MEANS THE END OF ME!

QUICKLY, FOOLS!

I KNEW IT! PINKED ME IN THE SHOULDER! BUT NOT BAD! STILL GOT A CHANCE IF I HURRY—*OHH* BUT IT HURTS! BUT I'LL KEEP CLIMBING TILL I DROP!

HO! YOU THINK TO ESCAPE SO, KOLAH! NEVER SHALL IT BE! NOW WILL I SLAY YOU BY SUCH A GREAT FALL YOU WILL NEVER RECOVER!

OHH—SHOVING ME OVER AND DOWN! LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE PRETTY ROUGH!

DIE, KOLAH!

NOT YET, TAMKO! YOU'LL COME DOWN WITH ME! AND ONCE I GET YOU DOWN THERE WE'LL GET SOMETHING SETTLED. MY WAY! AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT!

AIEEE—I FALL! BUT YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS, KOLAH! IN THIS PIT YOU WILL YET MEET YOUR DEATH!

HO! KOLAH PULLS OUR GREAT LEADER DOWN WITH HER!

BIG TALK! BUT LET'S SEE IF IT'S JUST AS BIG WHEN WE GET TO THE BOTTOM AND START FIGHTING!

BUT EVEN THE TERRIBLE STRENGTH OF THE APE-WOMAN IS NO MATCH FOR THAT OF KOLAH

GAAA—MY NECK BONE WILL SOON BREAK! I ASK MERCY, KOLAH! WE WILL SOON RETURN TO OUR LAND OF ANTILLA AND ALL THE MEN SLAVES WILL BE FREED! SPARE ME, PLEASE!

YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR WORD!

AND LATER...

COME! KOLAH IS OUR MISTRESS NOW. WE RETURN TO OUR OWN LAND!

HO! OUR KOLAH MAKES US FREE ONCE MORE! WE HAVE MUCH GRATITUDE FOR HER!

IT WAS ONLY MY DUTY, BOYS. NOW RETURN TO YOUR HOMES AND BE HAPPY! YOU WON'T HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE FROM TAMKA AND HER CROWD!

THE END

The HAUNTED HERO

WHEN DICK WAS A PRISONER OF WAR, HE SAW A SIGHT THAT LEFT A DEEP IMPRESSION, AND LONG AFTER V-J DAY, HE HAD TO FIGHT A PRIVATE WAR THAT HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND! THE SOLUTION WAS TRICKY, BUT IT MADE MEDICAL HISTORY THROUGH THE ACTS OF TWO MEN WHO WERE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO A BRAVE MAN!

DICK CRAVENS IS HAVING ONE OF A SERIES OF RECURRENT NIGHTMARES IN WHICH, STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE SEES HIMSELF SMOTHERING IN AN HOUR-GLASS...

A PRISONER INSIDE AN HOUR GLASS! GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT AND TAKES ME WITH IT!

HE STARTS AWAKE, HIS FOREHEAD GLISTENING WITH SWEAT, HIS NERVES CRYING OUT IN ANGUISH..

OH, THE SAME

NIGHTMARE! H-HORRIBLE! I WAS B-BACK IN THE HOUR-GLASS!

I'LL GO SEE MY PSYCHIATRIST AGAIN IN THE MORNING! I MUST HAVE SOME RELIEF!

SO THE NEXT DAY...
I'M GOING CRAZY, DOCTOR TATE! THE SAME HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE NIGHT AFTER NIGHT! PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME! ANYTHING!
I'LL TRY AGAIN, OF COURSE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE THAN YOU VE BEEN IN THE PAST!
THERE'S SOME SORT OF BLOCK IN YOUR PSYCHE! SOMETHING YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO REMEMBER, AND UNTIL YOU DO REMEMBER IT, I CAN'T HELP YOU! NOW—ARE YOU PREPARED TO TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PAST?
I'M WILLING TO CO-OPERATE WITH YOU, DOCTOR! THERE MUST BE SOME TREATMENT THAT WILL HELP!
AND WITH DICK'S CONSENT, THE DOCTOR SLOWLY BEGINS TO SWING A SHINY MEDALLION...
EASY, NOW, JUST WATCH THIS!
H-HUH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SLOWLY— BACK AND FORTH—SLOWLY—SLOWLY — SLOWLY—UNTIL...
I — SO DROWSY! B—BUT I CAN'T SLEEP! I MUSTN'T! I—OHH— YAWN—
UNDER HYPNOSIS, CRAVENS BEGINS TO TALK. THE THING THAT HE HAS BEEN WITHHOLDING FROM THE DOCTOR, COMES OUT AT LAST...
" I WAS IN THE PACIFIC IN THE WAR! I WAS NEVER MUCH OF A SOLDIER, NEVER VERY BRAVE! AND THE DAY I WAS CAPTURED I WAS SCARED STIFF...
"IN PRISON CAMP I SOON FOUND OUT HOW THE ENEMY OPERATED... IF YOU'D LET THEM...
WE NEED SPIES IN THE PRISONS! WORK FOR US AND YOU WILL BE WELL REWARDED!
OKAY! SURE! WHY NOT?
WAIT'LL I TELL THE FELLOWS THIS SETUP!

"BUT AT FIRST MY BUDDIES DIDN'T BELIEVE ME..."

I SAY HE'S BEEN BRAIN-WASHED AND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

THEN WE'LL MAKE THE BREAK AS WE PLANNED!

PLEASE LISTEN, FELLOWS! THEY KNOW YOUR PLANS!

"THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE! THE COMMANDANT HAD KNOWN THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE ESCAPE, AND THE JAPS MOVED IN ON THEM..."

"ONE DAY THE COMMANDANT CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE TO SHOW ME SOMETHING! IT WAS AN ODD-LOOKING LITTLE HOUSE BUILT IN THE FORM OF AN HOURGLASS..."

AS THE SAND SPILLS FROM THE TOP TO THE BOTTOM, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THEY WILL RECALL THE HOURS OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT! A SUBTLE TRICK, EH?

I'D BETTER MOVE FAST NOW WITH MY OWN LITTLE PLAN!

"THAT NIGHT I EXPLAINED AN ESCAPE PLAN AND THIS TIME THE MEN LISTENED..."

I CAN BRIBE THE GUARD, HE THINKS I'M A TURNCOAT; THEN WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST! WHO'S WITH ME, MEN?

ALL OF US! WE'LL GO NUTS IF I DON'T GET OUT OF HERE!

"IT WAS A CINCH TO GET THE GUARD TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME! ALL IT COST WAS A PACKAGE OF AMERICAN CIGARETTES..."

I GET YOU PLENTY TEA, BUT YOU WATCH G.I.'S! NO FUNNY STUFF!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM! HERE'S YOUR SMOKES!

"WE MADE OUR BREAK AND IT WORKED! TWENTY OF US WERE FREE MEN WITHIN AN HOUR. I'D HATE TO THINK OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GUARD, THOUGH..."

"AND THEN THERE WAS THE USUAL FORMALITY! I DIDN'T DESERVE THE PRAISE, EVERY MAN HAD BEEN A HERO THAT NIGHT..."

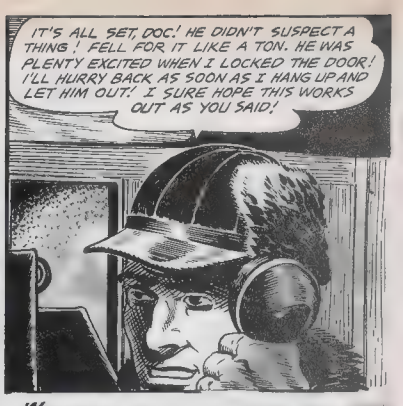
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU, DICK! YOU SAVED TWENTY MEN FROM A PRETTY GRIM FATE!

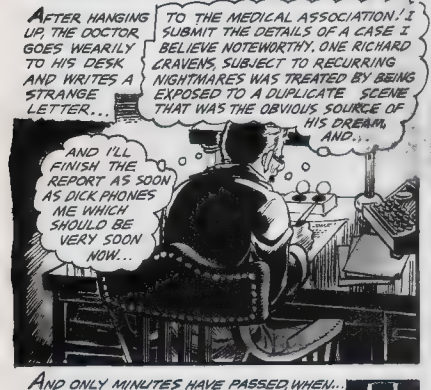
THANK YOU, SIR... BUT THANK GOODNESS THE WAR IS OVER AND THAT HOUR-GLASS IS A THING OF THE PAST!

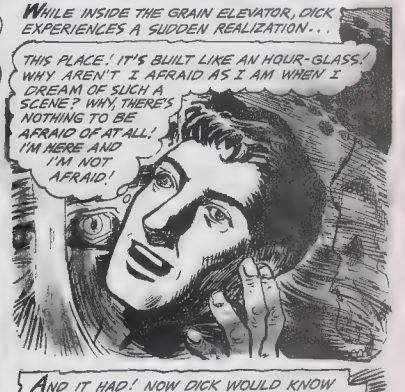
AS CRAVENS COMES OUT OF THE HYPNOTIC STATE...
DID I SAY ANYTHING THAT COULD HELP, DOCTOR? WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT? I'VE FAILED TO OFFER A CLUE, HAVEN'T I?
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! I DON'T THINK I CAN TREAT YOU, MR. CRAVENS, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS IS VERY UNUSUAL FOR A DOCTOR TO ADMIT, BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN HELP YOU!
WHY, YOU— YOU CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THAT!
THERE ARE CERTAIN TYPES OF PSYCHIC PROBLEMS THAT WE CANNOT ASSIST... YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND THE ANSWER WITHIN YOURSELF, DICK...
LATER, AS CRAVENS TAKES A TAXI TO HIS HOME...
WHAT SHALL I DO NOW? HELP MYSELF... HOW? A MAN HAS TO SLEEP AND WHEN I SLEEP, THAT DREAM SHOWS UP... I'M DOOMED...
KINGS
Seabrine's
TAXI
AND THAT NIGHT, DICK TOSSES AND TURNS UNTIL THE CRACK OF DAWN...
WHAT A NIGHT! THANK GOODNESS IT'S DAY AGAIN... BUT HOW LONG CAN I GO ON LIKE THIS?
CRAVENS IS IN THE GRAIN BUSINESS, AND THAT DAY HE GETS AN ORDER FROM HIS BOSS...
CRAVENS—I WANT YOU TO GO NORTH ON A TRIP! THERE'S A NEW TYPE OF GRAIN ELEVATOR I WANT YOU TO INSPECT!
SURE, BOSS! I CAN USE A TRIP!
43

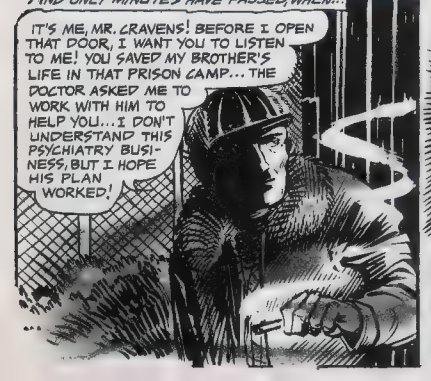
THAT NIGHT CRAVENS IS MET BY A STRANGER AT AN AIRPORT IN A CITY IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA...
HELLO! YOU'RE GRIMES, THE MAN WHO IS GOING TO SHOW ME THE NEW TYPE GRAIN ELEVATOR?
THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE GOT MY CAR OVER HERE! COME ON!
HMMM — HE'S NOT VERY FRIENDLY! IN FACT HE'S A SURLY BRUTE!
HAVE A GOOD CROP AROUND HERE THIS YEAR?
UHH — SO-SO!
HOW MUCH FARTHER IS IT TO THIS GRAIN ELEVATOR? SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR HOURS!
IT'S JUST UP THE WAY NOW! YOU'LL SEE IT SOON ENOUGH!
IN THE DARK, CRAVENS CAN ONLY MAKE OUT A DIM STRUCTURE! HE CAN SEE NO DETAILS OF THE OUTSIDE OF THE ELEVATOR...
DARKER THAN THE INSIDE OF A TAR BARREL! IT WAS SILLY TO COME OUT HERE AT NIGHT ANYWAY!
MAYBE, MAYBE NOT! ANYWAY HERE WE ARE! COME ON IN!
HERE YOU ARE! SEE THIS — AN ENTIRELY NEW IDEA IN STORING GRAIN! GIVES US PERFECT CONTROL OVER IT!
I SEE! HMMM — IT IS REVOLUTIONARY! MAYBE MY FIRM CAN USE SOME OF THESE!
SUDDENLY CRAVENS BECOMES AWARE THAT HE IS ALONE...
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, ANYWAY? HEY — LEAVE THAT DOOR ALONE!
AND AT LAST HE REALIZES THAT HE IS ALONE...
HEY! LET ME OUT! HELP! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

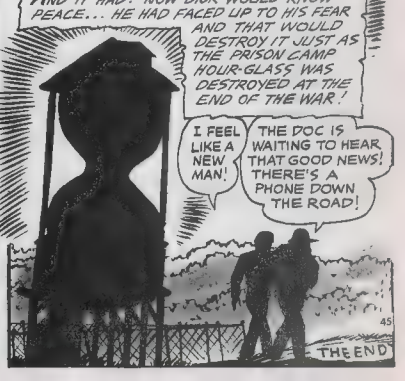
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE DOCTOR GETS A LONG DISTANCE CALL IN HIS HOME...
THIS MUST BE THE CALL I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! AT LAST! IT'S A TERRIBLE THING I'VE DONE — BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO HELP THE POOR FELLOW!


IT'S ALL SET, DOC! HE DIDN'T SUSPECT A THING! FELL FOR IT LIKE A TON. HE WAS PLENTY EXCITED WHEN I LOCKED THE DOOR! I'LL HURRY BACK AS SOON AS I HANG UP AND LET HIM OUT! I SURE HOPE THIS WORKS OUT AS YOU SAID!


AFTER HANGING UP, THE DOCTOR GOES WEARILY TO HIS DESK AND WRITES A STRANGE LETTER...
TO THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION! I SUBMIT THE DETAILS OF A CASE I BELIEVE NOTEWORTHY. ONE RICHARD CRAVENS, SUBJECT TO RECURRING NIGHTMARES WAS TREATED BY BEING EXPOSED TO A DUPLICATE SCENE THAT WAS THE OBVIOUS SOURCE OF HIS DREAM, AND...
AND I'LL FINISH THE REPORT AS SOON AS DICK PHONES ME WHICH SHOULD BE VERY SOON NOW...


WHILE INSIDE THE GRAIN ELEVATOR, DICK EXPERIENCES A SUDDEN REALIZATION...
THIS PLACE! IT'S BUILT LIKE AN HOUR-GLASS! WHY AREN'T I AFRAID AS I AM WHEN I DREAM OF SUCH A SCENE? WHY, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF AT ALL! I'M HERE AND I'M NOT AFRAID!


AND ONLY MINUTES HAVE PASSED, WHEN...
IT'S ME, MR. CRAVENS! BEFORE I OPEN THAT DOOR, I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME! YOU SAVED MY BROTHER'S LIFE IN THAT PRISON CAMP... THE DOCTOR ASKED ME TO WORK WITH HIM TO HELP YOU... I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS PSYCHIATRY BUSINESS, BUT I HOPE HIS PLAN WORKED!


AND IT HAD! NOW DICK WOULD KNOW PEACE... HE HAD FACED UP TO HIS FEAR AND THAT WOULD DESTROY IT JUST AS THE PRISON CAMP HOUR-GLASS WAS DESTROYED AT THE END OF THE WAR!
I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN!
THE DOC IS WAITING TO HEAR THAT GOOD NEWS! THERE'S A PHONE DOWN THE ROAD!
THE END

YOUNG JOHN McLEOD AND HIS BRIDE CAME FROM AMERICA TO ACCEPT AN INHERITANCE, BUT THEY DIDN'T EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE BLIZZARD-SWEPT ROCKS, AN UNCLE UNABLE TO GREET THEM TEMPORARILY, AND A HAUNTED CASTLE WHERE IN ROAMED THE GHOST OF HATE, DETERMINED TO CHANGE THE FAMILY HISTORY, WHO SHOUTED

ALL THIS IS MINE!

JOHN McLEOD AND HIS WIFE BETH APPROACH THE CASTLE OF DUNBERTHY IN THE ICE-LOCKED HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND...

GLOOMY LOOKING OLD PILE OF STONE, ISN'T IT?

BRRR — I WISH WE WERE BACK IN NEW YORK!

THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK, BETH! IF MY UNCLE BEN WANTS TO GIVE ME MY SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE NOW, WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE, WE SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN!

I KNOW, DARLING! AND I'M SURE I'LL LOVE YOUR UNCLE! IT'S JUST THAT THIS BLEAK COUNTRY GETS ON MY NERVES!

BUT AFTER LONG MINUTES OF KNOCKING...
FUNNY THAT NOBODY ANSWERS! SURELY YOUR UNCLE DOESN'T LIVE ALONE IN A HOUSE AND CASTLE LIKE THIS?
NO! HE HAS A SECRETARY AND COMPANION! NAME OF ROGERS, I THINK! BUT LET'S GO ON INTO THE COURTYARD!

MAYBE WE CAN RAISE SOMEBODY IN HERE!
I JUST DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE!

SUDDENLY A GLEAMING AND TERRIBLE FIGURE APPEARS IN THE SHADOWS OF THE CHILL COURTYARD...
EEEEEEEEEEEE— JOHN, LOOK!
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT'S THAT?

BE WARNED! LEAVE THIS CURSED PLACE! THERE IS DANGER HERE— GO!
OHHHHHHH— A G-GHOST!

AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED, THE GHOSTLY APPARITION VANISHES...
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN THE RED LAIRD, WARNING US! I'VE HEARD THE STORY OF HOW HE HAUNTS THIS CASTLE!
Y-YOU NEVER MENTIONED IT TO ME, I NOTICE! OHH — IT WAS HORRIBLE!

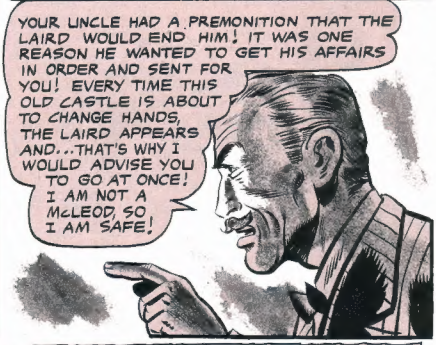
I'VE NEVER PUT ANY FAITH IN THE STORY—BUT NOW!... SAY, THIS IS A REAL TRACK ON THE SNOW! I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT IF WE FOLLOW THIS OBVIOUS TRAIL, WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING!
OH, JOHN, I'M FRIGHTENED! S-SHOULD WE?

THEY FOLLOW THE GRISEY TRAIL, BUT...
JOHN! THE TRAIL STOPS AT THIS BLANK WALL!
SO I SEE! BUT WAIT A MINUTE! THAT MASONRY HAS A FUNNY LOOK ABOUT IT! IT COULD BE...
I THOUGHT SO! A SECRET DOOR USED BY THE GHOST! SEE, YOU JUST SLIDE IT BACK LIKE THIS — AND THERE'S YOUR GHOST'S TRAIL!
UGH — MUST WE GO IN THERE?
INSIDE, A TORCH CASTS FITFUL LIGHT ON GLOOMY STAIRS LEADING UPWARD...
THE FOOTPRINTS GO UP THERE SOMEWHERE! AND SINCE GHOSTS DON'T TRACK! WE'D BETTER BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!
I — I STILL WISH WE HADN'T COME TO THIS AWFUL PLACE!
FINALLY...
THIS MUST BE THE MAIN STUDY! I WAS ONLY THREE WHEN I LEFT HERE, BUT I SEEM TO REMEMBER IT!
JOHN! OVER THERE! THAT M-MAN!
UNCLE BEN! HE'S DEAD, A HEART ATTACK. I WONDER WHAT CAUSED IT?
THAT CREATURE — THE THING WE SAW! IT MUST HAVE ATTACKED HIM!
THEY WHIRL AS SOMEONE ENTERS SOFTLY BEHIND THEM...
GOOD EVENING! YOU, I TAKE IT, ARE MR. AND MRS. McLEOD? I'M TOM ROGERS, YOUR DEAR UNCLE'S SECRETARY! SAY, WHAT'S WRONG?
H-HUH!
GET A DOCTOR!
THE STORM HAS KNOCKED OUT THE TELEPHONE, SO WE'LL BE UNABLE TO SUMMON A DOCTOR! NOT THAT HE CAN DO ANYTHING, ABOUT OUR FAMOUS GHOST, THE RED LAIRD OR DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?

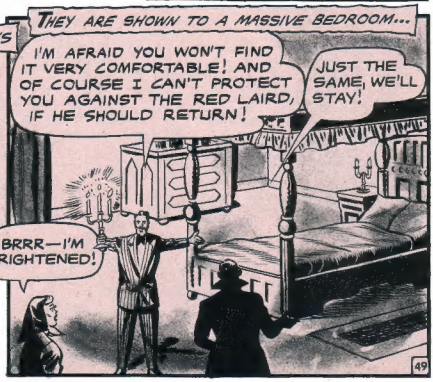
WE KNOW! WE FOLLOWED THE GHOST'S TRAIL HERE!
IT WAS T-TERRIBLE, ALL RIGHT!
YOU SAW THE GHOST? YOU ACTUALLY SAW THE APPARITION OF ANGUS, THE RED LAIRD!

YOUR UNCLE WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF THE RED LAIRD, AND WAS ALWAYS EXPECTING TO SEE HIM! AND POOR MAN, HE FINALLY MUST HAVE DIED OF SHOCK!
I'VE FORGOTTEN MOST OF THE STORY! WHY SHOULD THE RED LAIRD HATE MY UNCLE?

THAT WAS PAINTED IN 1633! YOU SEE—THE RED HAIR AND BEARD! HE WAS A CRUEL AND SAVAGE OLD HIGHLAND CHIEF—AND HOW HE HATED ALL THE McLEOD CLAN! IT WAS THE McLEODS, YOU KNOW, THAT TOOK THIS CASTLE FROM HIM! HE CURSED THEM AND PLEDGED THAT HIS SPIRIT WOULD NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE!
HE WAS A FIERCE-LOOKING OLD RASCAL!
IT'S THE MAN WE SAW!


YOUR UNCLE HAD A PREMONITION THAT THE LAIRD WOULD END HIM! IT WAS ONE REASON HE WANTED TO GET HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER AND SENT FOR YOU! EVERY TIME THIS OLD CASTLE IS ABOUT TO CHANGE HANDS, THE LAIRD APPEARS AND...THAT'S WHY I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO GO AT ONCE! I AM NOT A McLEOD, SO I AM SAFE!

BUT JOHN McLEOD FEELS A STRANGE RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT THE SECRETARY'S GLIB EXPLANATION...
THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN, ROGERS, BUT UNCLE NEEDS ME...
SUIT YOURSELF! BUT REMEMBER I WARNED YOU!


THEY ARE SHOWN TO A MASSIVE BEDROOM...
I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T FIND IT VERY COMFORTABLE! AND OF COURSE I CAN'T PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE RED LAIRD, IF HE SHOULD RETURN!
JUST THE SAME, WE'LL STAY!
BRRR—I'M FRIGHTENED!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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SWIFTLY, MCLEOD RETURNS TO THE CHAMBER WHERE BETH SLEEPS...
AAAAAAEEEEE— OH—IT'S YOU, JOHN!
QUIET, FOR PETE'S SAKE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE—FAST!
MINUTES LATER...
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS NOW, BETH! WE MUST GET THE POLICE AND BRING THEM BACK HERE!
B-BUT WHAT'S H-HAPPENED? WHERE DID YOU GO? C-CAN'T WE WAIT UNTIL MORNING?
WE ARE IN DANGER HERE, BETH, WE'VE GOT TO GET HELP..
OH— THE RED LAIRD!
HAH-HAH! YOU TWO WILL NEVER LEAVE THE CASTLE NOW!
BUT JUST AS THE GHOST IS ABOUT TO STRIKE...
THAT SUIT OF ARMOR—FALLING FROM THE BALCONY!
THE HEAVY ARMOR DOES A NEAT JOB...
YES! AND I THINK WE'LL FIND THAT UNCLE'S WILL HAS BEEN BURNED, AND A FORGED ONE SUBSTITUTED! ROGERS WANTED THE CASTLE!
WHY—IT'S ROGERS, THE SECRETARY! MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE THE RED LAIRD!
HE KILLED MY UNCLE AND WAS TRYING TO SCARE US OFF, TOO, WITH THE GHOST ACT! NOW WE'D BETTER DRIVE TO THE VILLAGE FOR THE POLICE!
B-BUT DID YOU NOTICE THE NAME PLATE ON THAT SUIT OF ARMOR? IT BELONGED TO THE RED LAIRD! HE SAVED ALL OF US!
THE END